Safety of Tarapur atomic power plant in Maharashtra

3575. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the atomic reactor at Tarapur in Maharashtra is functioning beyond the 'safe age period' as per the report from International Commission for Reactor Protection and Dr. Johan Walker an expert from M/s. Best Cell Company of U.S.A.;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken preventive measures in the surrounding areas to prevent loss of life;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to storage of radio active waste in drums, the area around the Tarapur Plant is affecting the environment and human health; and

(d) if so, the details of the remedial safety measures taken / proposed . to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The safety of the Atomic reactors in India is monitored and approved for operation by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) created for this purpose. They have not declared that the Tarapur reactors in Maharashtra are functioning in an unsafe manner. Government is not aware of any organisation known as International Commission of Reactor Protection as an authentic body with expertise in this area. No individual opinion in this respect can be taken as the final word.

The Department of Atomic Energy had constituted a committee to examine the status of the plant. On the basis of these investigations, it has been decided that the plant could be operated for another 10-15 years. Regular surveillance and monitoring are carried out in order to ensure the safety of the reactor.

(c) and (d) The Radioactive Waste Management facility is managed by the Waste Management Division of BARC and Surveillance of this contained waste is monitored by the Health and Safety authorities to report to AERB. There is no adverse impact on the environment affecting human health.

Commencing of Koodankulam atomic power project

3576. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI S. MADHAVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cause for the delay in commencing construction works of the Koocjankulam Atomic Power Project in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the total outlay envisaged for the project;

(c) the amount spent thereon so far;

(d) by when the construction work is likely to be commenced; and

(e) by when the project is expected to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) In view of the uncertainties introduced on account of the recent political developments in the erstwhile USSR, the Inter-Governmental Agreement between the USSR and India signed in November, 1988 for establishing two reactors each with a capacity of 1000 MWe at Kun-